

MURPHY, Charles J.V.

STEELE, John

STATINTL

GIBNEY, Frank

TIME

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PENKOVSKIY, Oleg

well done
at

20 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Inquiries Regarding "The Penkovskiy Papers"

1. John Steele of TIME telephoned this morning. He was in high dudgeon. He said he wasn't satisfied with the information that we wouldn't answer his questions regarding how we initially got Penkovskiy, how we lost him, and what had become of him, questions he has been trying to have answered for the past two years. He said he now wanted to ask if there were any CIA reports contained in the Penkovskiy papers. I again reiterated that I don't know what's in the papers. I said I had not seen the book, but I did know that Gibney presented the manuscript for security clearance and I do know that CIA had absolutely nothing to do with the publication, but, on the contrary, Gibney brought the publication here. Since Gibney is an old hand at TIME-LIFE, I asked why Steele didn't get in touch with Gibney. Steele wanted to know if statements in the British press were true that maybe British and American intelligence had a part in getting this story out. I told him that I could only answer for CIA and that is to give him a flat denial. I told him I was sorry, as much as we love him and his publication, that we just can't help him in this thing and he said he just can't understand it. He said Mr. Helms, who knows he has been after this story, was very hurried in his conversation with Steele, and Steele found me utterly uncooperative in that I wouldn't even tell him the content of the book. I again told him I don't know the content and to try Doubleday for an advance copy. He said it was all very mysterious and he did not like it.

2. Later today at luncheon with Charles J.V. Murphy here in the building, I learned that Steele is terribly excited and thinks that TIME-LIFE should have had a crack at publishing the papers. I explained that this was up to Gibney, one of their former employees and that CIA had nothing to do with the publication. Murphy expressed the thought that the publication of the Penkovskiy papers will likely result in the Russians now bringing out confessions by American and British defectors who are in Russia.

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3. New Inquiry on Same Subject

and an employee of the Washington Bureau of NEWSWEEK for only one month, telephoned Matt Baird yesterday regarding an inquiry from the New York office as to CIA's alleged participation in the Penkovskiy papers. Matt Baird called [redacted] who told him to have [redacted] phone here. I took [redacted] call and gave him the prescribed responses. I learned today in the Agency that [redacted] is said to believe that [redacted] is digging into this story on his own. That is contrary to my knowledge of this. He told me the Washington Bureau had the inquiry from New York and I told him that we know nothing about the book other than that Gibney presented it here for security clearance and to give my personal regards to the Editor-in-Chief, Mr. [redacted], but he had no choice in my opinion other than to call CIA at the direction of his chief. I

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now know why an inquiry from [REDACTED] may have disturbed Agency people, but it is my belief that he was merely carrying out routine office instructions.

4. New Inquiry on Same Subject, Second Call from TIME

Arthur White, Washington Bureau of TIME, telephoned this afternoon and said the World Section of TIME in New York had asked him to again query CIA asking the same questions that John Steele asked of me this morning regarding the Penkovskiy papers. I repeated the answers given to Mr. Steele. White said he would recommend to New York that they get in touch with Frank Gibney who used to sit next to Arthur White when they both worked for TIME. He had some inquiries regarding Gordon Lonsdale's book, "Spy" and I referred him to Mr. [REDACTED] since I am completely unfamiliar with that subject.

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cc: DDCI